

DIAGNOSTIC COMPOSITIONS, ELEMENTS, METHODS AND TEST  
KITS FOR AMPLIFICATION AND DETECTION OF TWO OR MORE  
DNA'S USING PRIMERS HAVING MATCHED MELTING TEMPERATURES

Abstract of the Disclosure

5           An aqueous composition containing primers  
for opposing strands of two or more target nucleic  
acids can be used in polymerase chain reaction to  
provide simultaneously rapid and efficient  
amplification and detection of those nucleic acids.  
10   The primers for each target DNA differ in length by  
no more than 5 nucleotides and have a  $T_m$  within the  
range of from about 65 to about 74°C, while the  $T_m$ 's  
are within about 5°C of each other. Such  
compositions are useful in diagnostic test kits and  
15   methods for amplification and detection of multiple  
nucleic acids, or in "multiplexing", using multiple  
capture probes. All of the capture probes have  $T_m$ 's  
which are greater than 50°C and are within 15°C of  
each other.

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